February 21: Council 7.00pm start.
February 22 – 24. Grades 5-6 Urban Camp, Melbourne
March 3: Polwarth Sports Day with a fall back date on March 6.
March 13: Labour Day holiday. The school will be shut on this day.
March 21. Mt Clear, Grades 4,5,6 It’s Electrifying and not confirmed
Fun Bugs P-3
April 19: percussion workshop at Alvie CS, along with Deans Marsh PS, Carlisle River PS, and Forrest PS
Aril 21: GRIP school leadership conference for student leaders, Geelong.
May 9: NAPLAN, Language Conventions and Writing.
May 10: NAPLAN, Reading
May 11 NAPLAN, Numeracy.
May 30, Mt Clear, P-2 Push/pull, 3-6 Fossil hunters

Student of the week.
Ricky Burnet: For always setting a good example and being a happy smiley student.
Zac Jacobson: for really stepping up with his leadership, and being more sensible in class.

Busy as.
There have been an absolute shower of forms to fill in over the last three weeks, but fortunately we have got most of them out, and most of them have been returned too. Thankyou very much for keeping up with them all.

In the classroom we have been running many tests as we set up programs for the year, and they are now rapidly coming to an end. As they do finish we will meet with parents, where necessary, to talk through student individual learning plans. We expect to have an individual program and plan available on line for every child by the end of term one.

On Friday afternoon the whole school practised a fire drill in response to an imaginary grass fire in bound from the north end of the school. In short we all sheltered in the large corridor in the main building. The successfully completed process will assist us, if we ever have a real need, to protect ourselves against a grass fire.

Could I remind Councillors that we will hold our first meeting for the year tomorrow Tuesday 21st starting at 7.00pm.

Polwarth Sports Day
Our students are busy practising during our Sporting Schools program and in their own time for Polwarth Sports Day, which is a week earlier this year. Pictured here is Leylah Scott perfecting her high jump technique.

Our school expects families to make their own arrangements for children to get to and from Alvie on the day. The date has been set for March the 3rd, and families may want to consider sharing transport arrangements to make sure everyone gets there for the day. We ask parents to ensure that their children are at Alvie by 9.15am for the start of the day. The day will finish by 3.30pm.

If we have inclement weather a radio announcement will be made. 3CS will broadcast this message at about 7.55am. The fall back date will then be 6th March. Students who are successful at this meet can expect to be invited to the Divisional Athletics Sports Day in Colac on Monday 15th March.

We intend having some supplies of fly repellent and sun block for students, but do request that parents supply their own sun protection including a protective hat. Lunch orders for Alvie need to be returned to us by this Thursday 23rd.

Our Parents and Friends Association have bought sports shirts for every student to wear when they are participating at Alvie. These light blue shirts with the school’s insignia will shortly be sent home for each child to wear on the day.

Secondary School: what’s it like?
Lewis Bayne has made the leap to Colac Secondary College quite successfully. He quickly made friends with students from other small primary schools. He enjoys new subjects such as woodwork which he did not have the opportunity to do at primary school. Buying a lunch at the school canteen is another bonus. Sport continues to be a favourite with Lewis, and “Hush” which is a mixture of English and Humanities has also become one of Lewis’ favourites.

Lewis misses his old friends, and we hope he will find the time to come and visit us all when he gets the opportunity.

It is reassuring to see that our student can settle in and successfully adapt to a big new school.
Parents will be aware that each year all Year three and five students are assessed in terms of their Maths and English ability. This year the tests will run as follows: Tues May 9th Language Conventions and Writing test (persuasive or narrative), Wed May 10th Reading test, and Thursday May 11th Numeracy. We expect all students to take part in the tests, but should you not wish your child to participate please let us know. The decision regarding student exemption or withdrawal from the NAPLAN tests rests with parents.

In the little room we began the year with a bang. From the second day back we began testing students using multiple assessment formats. The programs that we have chosen to focus on for pre and post testing this year have been Essential Assessment, PAT Assessment, Fountis and Pinnell Benchmark and Mathematics. This will establish what I need to concentrate on for each student. It will also be supportive data to show what the students learnt for the year in the areas of Comprehension and Mathematics. The preps will be completing an extra test online titled English and Mathematics Online Interview (EOI, MOI). This term we are studying mini-beasts during Science and landmarks around Australia for general studies, which the children have taken a shine to. I am very proud of the hard work they have endeavoured to achieve and I look forward to continuing this with the little room children and also with the big room and wider school community.

The second picture from the little room shows our prep students receiving back to school library bags. These contain lots of useful information to support parents, storybooks and activities for preps, as well as a welcome message from the Minister for Education.

Premier’s Active April.
The Premier’s Active April is part of the Victorian Government’s commitment to promote healthy and active lifestyles and get Victorians to join in the fun of increased physical activity. Once again our school has signed up to be part of the program. We also intend participating in jump rope for heart and walk to school, all of which have been a great success at our school in the past.
Mr Piano man

For his first session David Stewart introduced our students to a piano keyboard and gave students some simple exercises to practise. He is visiting weekly for the rest of this year. Now is the time to join if you are still uncertain. The following students have already committed: Jonah Firman, Tahlia and Brodie Kerr, Krysta Scott, Keely McEwan, Brigitte Ferguson, and Monique Cowell.

Rokewood Lagoon.
It was great to see so many people at Rokewood Lagoon last Wednesday. The weather was kind and there were some great opportunities to catch up with old friends and say hello to new faces.

The day was a great success and as one of Beeac Primary School’s great traditions, we all hope to continue it into the future.

School leaders.
Speeches were read, and students listened and cast their votes to decide who will be our new leaders for 2017. Congratulations to the following students; Chelsea Beswicke girl school captain, Zac Barwise boy school captain, Corey Cox, sports captain and both Grace Hebblethwaite and Mason McEwan who will become our school’s SRC (School Representative Council) leaders. All five students will participate in a school’s leadership Conference at Geelong on April the 21st.

Swimming.
Swimming is again in full swing with a subsidy of $25 a head from the Parents and Friends Association. This term each child will get a full hour’s tuition and there are four groups of instructors working hard to develop each child’s proficiency and safety in the water.

Ukulele.
A ukulele club is being held every Tuesday. Anyone who wants to learn ukulele is welcome to come along. Gemma Beswicke has initiated the ukulele club and we will all be learning together. Karen..

Farmers Arms Beeac

Thursday nights is our $15 porterhouse steak night. All steaks served with chips salad and a choice of mushroom sauce, peppercorn sauce or regular gravy.

Sunday we have a $12 roast dinner with all the trimmings. A choice of beef, pork and lamb.

For all enquiries and bookings call 5234 6341.
Moving beyond asking, “What did you do at school?”

By Michael Grose

Ever found yourself asking your child the same bland question about school?
“So, how was your day? What did you do at school today? What did you learn?”

If these are your default questions the chances are that you’ll get a one or two word reply along the lines, “Fine!” “Good!” “Okay” “Nothing much.”

These answers don’t really tell you a lot. On the other hand, these types of questions don’t ask a great deal.

So how can you move beyond the mundane when you talk with kids about their school days?

Set the atmosphere
It helps to create the right atmosphere for conversations. A quick “How was your day?” as you pick a child up from after-school is a rapport-builder or mood checker, but little more.

If you drive you may learn a bit on the trip home, particularly if you keep the radio off and are able to keep some distance between kids and mobile devices. Alternatively, walking home together may loosen up your child’s tongue and put them in the mood for talking.

Give kids a chance
Most kids need some time and space to unwind before expecting them to talk about their day, particularly if you are going to launch and ask them questions. This makes sense as most adults would feel annoyed if they were assaulted as soon as they walked in the door about their day, “How was your day? What did you do? Who did you see?” Ahh! Stop!

Create conversations rather than ask questions
The dinner table makes a great place to talk, if all televisions are off, mobile devices are left behind and you take the time to make it more than a pit stop. One way to kick off a conversation is to ask kids if they’d like to hear about your day. From my experience kids are often interested in the most mundane things that go on in an adult’s day so don’t think you have to make it sound grander than what it is. This gives kids permission to talk about their own days; your story can stimulate conversations which provides openings for kids to ask questions and share a little or in some cases a lot about their own day at school.

Interesting questions lead to interesting conversations
The questions you ask to prompt a conversation will often say a great deal about you and what you value. If you focus only on academic or learning questions then it indicates that’s what you value.